

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (previously presented) A method comprising:
 - identifying a last usable track on a recording media surface, beyond a default maximum track, as a function of when an average bias slope of a bias parameter, associated with an actuator which positions a data head over the recording media, exceeds a predetermined percentage of an overall average bias slope; and
 - defining a standoff band of tracks relative to the last usable track to obtain an achieved maximum track on the surface.
- 2-7. (canceled)
8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, and further comprising identifying the last usable track as a function of when the bias parameter is indicative of an obstruction encountered by the actuator.
9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the obstruction is an inner diameter crash stop.
10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, and further comprising identifying the last usable track as a function of when a rate of change of the bias parameter exceeds a threshold rate of change of the bias parameter.
11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, and further comprising identifying the last usable track as a function of a position error signal (PES) value.
12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the PES value further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when the PES value exceeds a predetermined percentage of an average PES value.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the PES value further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when a track PES exceeds a predetermined percentage of a maximum budgeted PES.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein defining the standoff band of tracks further comprises categorizing 400 tracks outside of the last usable track to obtain the achieved maximum track on the surface.

15. (previously presented) A system comprising:

a controller configured to control movement of a head/actuator over a surface; and
processing circuitry coupled to the controller and configured to execute the steps:

identifying a last usable track on the surface, beyond a default maximum track, as
a function of when a track position error signal (PES) exceeds a
predetermined percentage of a maximum budgeted PES; and
defining a standoff band of tracks relative to the last usable track to obtain an
achieved maximum track on the surface.

16-17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, and further comprising identifying the last usable track as a function of a bias parameter, indicative of a bias force on the actuator, by determining when the bias parameter exceeds a threshold.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the bias parameter is an average bias slope, and wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the bias parameter further comprises determining when the average bias slope exceeds a predetermined percentage of an overall average bias slope.

20. (previously presented) The system of claim 15, and further comprising identifying the last usable track as a function of when a rate of change of a bias parameter exceeds a threshold rate of change of the bias parameter.

21-23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) A method comprising:

identifying a last usable track on a recording media surface, beyond a default maximum track, as a function of a position error signal (PES) value, wherein the position error signal represents a distance from a read head's current position to a desired target position; and

defining a standoff band of tracks relative to the last usable track to obtain an achieved maximum track on the surface.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the PES value further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when the PES value exceeds a predetermined percentage of an average PES value.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein identifying the last usable track as a function of the PES value further comprises identifying the last usable track as a function of when a track PES exceeds a predetermined percentage of a maximum budgeted PES.